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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/579,770

03/12/2007

Viggo Aaberg Kaern

2003039-US

5690

69289

7590

05/27/2009

COLOPLAST A/S

Attention: Corporate Patents

Holtedam 1

DK-3050 Humleback,

DENMARK

EXAMINER

TREYGER, ILYA Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3761

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/27/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/579,770	Applicant(s) KAERN ET AL.	
	Examiner ILYA Y. TREYGER	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 and 20-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 5, 12 and 14-19 are amended.
2. Claims 13 and 20-22 are canceled.
3. The Rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph has been withdrawn in view of cancellation of claims 20-22.
4. Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are examined on the merits.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 02/03/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:
2. With respect to claims 1, 12 and 14, Applicants argue that Boedecker does not disclose the claimed invention because the reference disclose the valve body comprising the holes 40 (Fig. 2) that does not correspond with the limitation "projects a coherent plane" as claimed and which has been defined in the Specification as "no material has been stamped, punched or cut out, i.e., no material has been removed from within the outer contour of the valve element."

However, the presence of holes 40 does not predict the device from being capable of projecting a coherent plane. Omission of an element and its function is obvious if the function of the element is not desired *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ 2031 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989) (In the recited case claims at issue were directed to a method for inhibiting corrosion on metal surfaces using a composition consisting of epoxy resin, petroleum sulfonate, and hydrocarbon diluent. The claims were rejected over a primary reference which disclosed an anticorrosion composition of epoxyresin, hydrocarbon diluent, and polybasic acid salts wherein said salts were taught to be beneficial when employed in a freshwater environment, in view of secondary references which

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clearly suggested the addition of petroleum sulfonate to corrosion inhibiting compositions. The Board affirmed the rejection, holding that it would have been obvious to omit the polybasic acid salts of the primary reference where the function attributed to such salt is not desired or required, such as in compositions for providing corrosion resistance in environments which do not encounter fresh water.). See also *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 144 USPQ 347 (CCPA 1965) (Omission of additional framework and axle which served to increase the cargo carrying capacity of prior art mobile fluid carrying unit would have been obvious if this feature was not desired.); and *In re Kuhle*, 526 F.2d 553, 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975) (deleting a prior art switch member and thereby eliminating its function was an obvious expedient). In the instant case the holes are not desired and remaining elements perform the same function. Therefore the hole can be removed together with its function.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

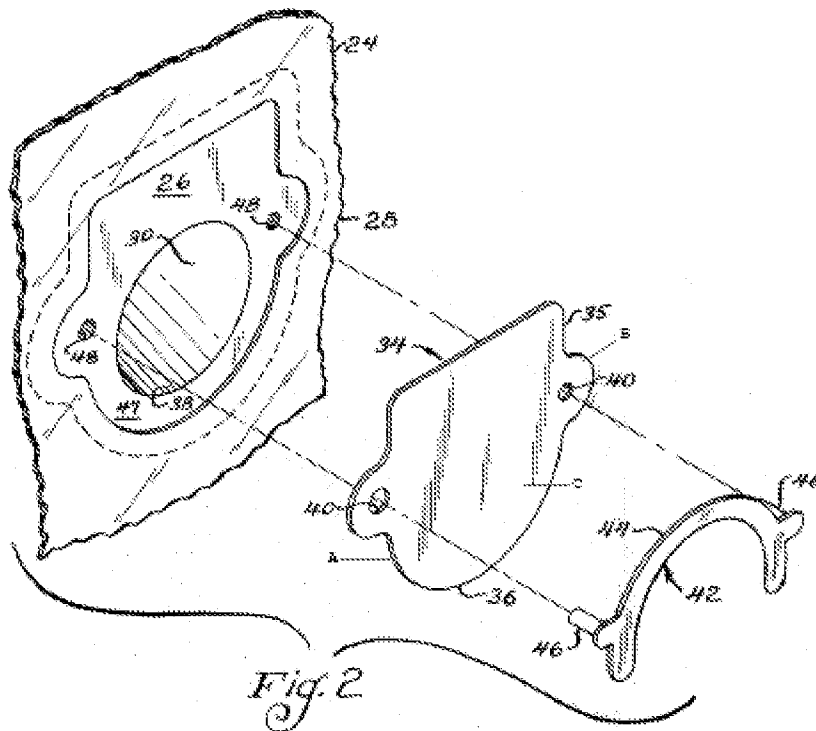
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boedecker (US 3,965,900).

7. In Re claim 1, Boedecker discloses an anti-reflux device (Abstract, line 1) comprising: a wall 28 (Fig. 2) providing a drip chamber 26 (Fig. 2) which is a valve seat, and a valve element 34 (Fig. 2) defining an outer contour A (Fig. 2) formed from a sheet-shaped material, said valve element including a connection portion B (Fig. 2) and a flap portion C (Fig. 2) defining a

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longitudinal direction extending between the connecting portion and the flap portion, and bores 48 (Fig. 2) which are retaining means for retaining the valve element 34 with respect to the device, said retaining means being integral with the device. The connecting portion B includes apertures 40 (Fig. 2) which are engagement means formed integrally with the valve element for engagement with the retaining means, wherein the valve element is fully capable of projecting a coherent plane (See Col. 2, lines 46-51, 64; Col. 3, lines 7-13).



8. In Re claims 2 and 10, Boedecker discloses an anti-reflux device (Abstract, line 1) for providing anti-reflux in urine (claim 10) drains from the patient's bladder into the bag for collection (Col. 2, lines 57-59) what means both the body fluid drainage and sampling system.

9. In Re claims 6, 7, and 9, Boedecker discloses a device in which said outer contour A forms a curve defining a continuously advancing function on a respective side of the longitudinal

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direction (claim 6), and wherein the engagement means 40 are formed within (claim 7) and integrally (claim 9) in said outer contour (claim 7) (See Fig. 2).

10. In Re claim 11, Boedecker discloses the device defining a catheter, a drainage tube connected to the catheter, and the connector to the collection bag (Col. 2, lines 54-59).

In Re claim 12, Boedecker discloses the valve element 34 (Fig. 2) including at least one connecting portion B (Fig. 2) and a flap portion C (Fig. 2) and defining a longitudinal direction extending between the connecting portion and the flap portion, and with engagement means 40 (Fig. 2) integrally formed in the valve element (Col. 2, lines 46-51, 64; Col. 3, lines 7-13).

With respect to the limitation regarding that the valve element including the engagement means is manufactured by cutting along a closed line in a sheet-shaped material blank, claim 12 is a product-by-process claim, and since the claimed product is fully disclosed by the reference, the method of the manufacturing the engagement means imbedded in the claim does not impact patentability to the claim.

11. In Re claims 14 and 15, since the valve element 34 is disclosed as being of sheet-like shape and comprising an outer contour in a form of a closed line fully capable of projecting a coherent plane, Boedecker discloses a method of manufacturing a valve element having a connection portion, a flap portion, and engagement means integrally in the valve element comprising the step of cutting the valve element and the engagement means along one closed line in a sheet-shaped material blank (Fig. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boedecker (US 3,965,900).

15. In Re claim 17, Boedecker discloses the claimed invention discussed above, as applied to claim 13, except for the method in which the outer contour is provided by a cutting operation such as punching, stamping or die-cutting. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the outer contour by a cutting operation such as punching, since it was known in the art that punch is a tool

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for circular or other piercing (See definition in *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*).

16. In Re claim 18, Boedecker discloses the claimed invention except for the method in which the cutting operation is performed in a rolling operation. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform the cutting operation in the rolling operation. Examiner takes an Official Notice that the the rolling operation has been conventionally used in the cutting process (See Fig.).

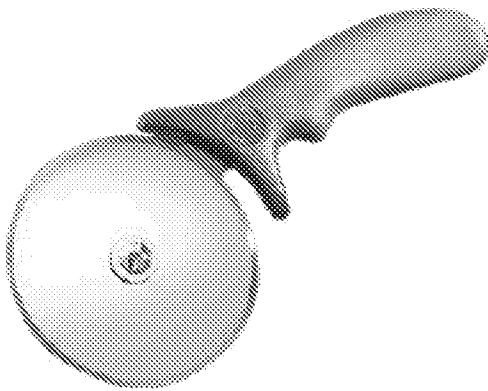


Fig.

17. In Re claim 19, Boedecker discloses the claimed invention except for the method in which the outer contour is provided by cutting by means of laser, water etc. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the outer contour by cutting by means of laser, since it was known in the art that laser has been used for performing the cutting operation, i.e. laser - a device that produces a very narrow intense beam of light, which is used for cutting very

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hard materials and in surgery etc. [from *light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation*] (See *Collins Essential English Dictionary 2nd Edition*).

18. Claims 3, 4, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boedecker (US 3,965,900) in view of Morone (US 5,027,754).

Boedecker discloses the claimed invention discussed above, but does not expressly disclose the device, wherein the engagement means are slit-shaped (claim 8) or incision-shaped (claims 3 and 4).

Morone teaches the flap valve wherein the valve element is slit- or incision-shaped (since the incision is a variation of slit) (See Fig. 2).

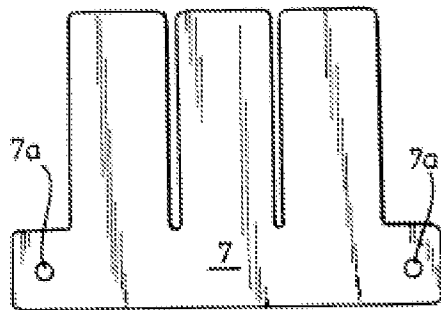


FIG.2

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the valve element of Boedecker slit- or incision-shaped, as taught by Morone in order to improve valve element fixation.

Allowable Subject Matter

19. Claim 5 is allowed.

20. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The specific limitations of “a hook- shaped section” are not anticipated or made obvious by the

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prior art of record. For example, the US 3,965,900 teaches a valve element 34 (Fig. 2) defining an outer contour A (Fig. 2) formed from a sheet-shaped material, said valve element including a connection portion B (Fig. 2) and a flap portion C (Fig. 2) defining a longitudinal direction extending between the connecting portion and the flap portion, and bores 48 (Fig. 2) which are retaining means for retaining the valve element 34 with respect to the device, said retaining means being integral with the device.

US 5,027,754 teaches the flap valve wherein the valve element is slit- or incision-shaped (since the incision is a variation of slit) (See Fig. 2).

However US 3,965,900 and US 5,027,754 fail to teach or suggest the specific limitations of a hook- shaped section which improves the fixation of the device.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ILYA Y. TREYGER whose telephone number is (571)270-3217. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ilya Y Treyger/
Examiner, Art Unit 3761

/Michele Kidwell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761